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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 22 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period 1 to 15 December 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-15 December 1998

1. In the northern region 94 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar and Ayn Zalah.

2. In the southern region 774 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Basra, Shatrah, Maymunah, Rifa'i, Kut, Mu'ayanah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Ali al-Gharbi, Najaf, Nu'maniyah, Lasaf, Qala't Sukkar, Ali al-Sharqi, Diwaniyah South and Suq al-Shuyukh.

3. On 10 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace.

4. At 1103, 1156, 1245, 1415, 1530 and 1700 hours on 29 November 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

5. At 1138, 1141, 1200, 1255 and 1705 hours on 30 November 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

6. At 1148, 1230, and 1254 hours on 1 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 1010, 1015, 1020, 1024, 1400, 1427, 1443, 1500 and 1556 hours on 2 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the Umm Qasr and Faw regions.

8. At 1045, 1050 and 1052 hours on 3 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

9. At 1700 hours on 4 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

10. At 1021 hours on 6 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

11. At 1035 hours on 7 December 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

12. At 1407 hours on 7 December 1998 a formation of United States aircraft dropped illumination flares over the Taklif region in Ninawa Governorate. These were extinguished in the air.

13. At 1735 hours on 10 December 1998 two United States aircraft dropped two heat flares over the Safwan region in Basra Governorate.

14. At 1015 hours on 12 December 1998 a United States helicopter intercepted the Iraqi State Enterprise for Maritime Transport vessel Al-Bay'ah, which was in Khawr Abdullah inside our territorial waters, heading for the port of Umm Qasr with a cargo of wheat from the silo at Umm Qasr. The helicopter pilot used his radio to tell the captain of the vessel to change course, which the captain refused to do. The interrogation and harassment continued for one hour, during which explanations were sought as to the run, registration and direction of the vessel.